ST

UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARIAT

Distribution
GENERAL

ST/ECLA/C.1/7
20 December 1950
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION

WORKING COMMITTEE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

Second Session
Sao Paulo, Brazil

REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION

1. The Committee held its Second Session at the Regional Manpower Office of the International Labour Organisation at Sao Paulo and at the United Nations Information Office in Rio de Janeiro between the 15th and 25th November. The Agenda was contained in ST/ECLA/C.1/6. The Economic Commission for Latin America was represented by Mr. H.M. Phillips (Chairman), Mr. A. Santa Cruz, and Mr. C. Furtado; the I.L.O. were represented by Mr. S.D. Collett and Mr. J. Mendez; The Food and Agricultural Organisation by Mr. P. Terver, and the International Refugee Organisation at different times by Mr. O.C. Wendling, Mr. D. Stansby and Mr. R. Rodié. It had been hoped that Dr. Metraux of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation would have been able to attend the meeting, but owing to a delay in the transit of papers it was not possible to arrange coincidence between his visit to Brazil for other purposes and the meeting of the Committee. The Committee was received at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry by Mr. Mendes Viana, Head of the International Organisations Department and by Mr. Hugo Gouthier Gondin, Head of the Department of Economic Affairs.

2. The Chairman of the Committee reported progress on the work since the last Session which had been undertaken in Santiago. The members of the Committee stationed in Santiago had been in further touch with the

/Chilean Government

Chilean Government. Interviews had taken place with the Minister of Lands and Colonisation, and with the Managing Director (Vice Presidente Executivo) and the Chief Planning Officer of the Chilean Development Corporation, and collaboration had been initiated in the working out of two projects which were under consideration by the Chilean Government. There had also been consultations with Professor Ronchi, Head of the Italian Corporation for the financing of emigration, who had been visiting Chile with a group of technicians; and arrangements were made for members of the Committee to maintain contact with the work of the Italian mission which was remaining in Chile.

3. The Committee continued its general study of the relation between economic development and immigration in Latin America and took the opportunity for informal consultations with Brazilian experts on immigration, and with representatives of European Governments interested in the Committee's work. In particular the Committee examined a preliminary draft outline which ranged over the historical aspects of the matter. This outline included an analysis of the relation between the fluctuation of economic activity to Latin America with the fluctuation of migratory movements.

4. As a result of consultations between the I.L.O. and Aide Suisse a l'Europe, the Session was attended by Dr. Vayda and Mr. Bertholet, delegates of Aide Suisse, and in view of the interest of the Committee in the initiative of Aide Suisse a l'Europe in the field of migration an exchange of views took place. Those delegates made a detailed exposition of a plan for immigration and colonisation in Brazil, prepared by Aide Suisse, to settle 100,000 persons of peasant stock of European surplus

population. The delegates had an authorisation from the Conselho de Imigraçao e Colonizaçao permitting this immigration to commence immediately with a first group of 2,500 persons (500 families). As Brazil could not participate in the financing of the project, the financing of the settlement of the first group of 500 families was envisaged through the medium of credits to be obtained in Switzerland. The delegates handed the Committee a detailed set of documents concerning the plan, including the Report of a Commission which made a study after staying for some months in zones susceptible of utilisation; a draft budget for the first group of 500 families, including the amortization plan for the credits obtained; and studies on some technical matters discussed with the Committee.

5. The delegates of Aide Suisse a l'Europe stated that they were considering making a thorough study of other possibilities of colonisation and development including immigration in various regions, with reference to both their pilot project and their total plan. They wished to be sure of its economic success. They asked if the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies could participate in a joint technical study for this purpose. They also enquired whether the I.L.O. would be prepared to help in finding a source for financing the transport of the immigrants. The representative of the I.L.O. said this was a possibility which would be considered given a suitable project and a request from the Government of Brazil. The Committee made it clear that it could take no action without a request from the Brazilian Government.

/6. Representatives

6. Representatives of the Dutch and Italian Missions also attended before the Committee and gave an account of their experience and achievements in relation to the work of the Committee, and data was collected as to different types of immigration projects and their relative advantages. These included both projects organised and financed on a private basis and projects arranged jointly between Governments and colonisation corporations of countries of emigration; they included projects in which settlers operated in cooperatives, and those providing for their separate and independent operation as families and individuals.

7. The Committee continued to consider forestry development in relation to immigration and a working paper was submitted by Mr. Terver, Executive Secretary of the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products. Mr. Terver stated that he had been asked by the Second Session of the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Productions to study the problems of the development of forestry products in relation to the need for manpower and the necessity and possibility for immigration, and to report to the Third Session of that Commission which was due to meet in Santiago in December. Consultation took place in regard to the preparation of a paper for that session. The paper emphasised the necessity of establishing a close link between wood production and the forest industries in order to secure for a stable population healthy, continuous and well paid work all the year round, either in forestry work, extraction, industry or commerce. It also drew attention to the usefulness of employment offices to enable manpower needs for forestry production to be adequately assessed.

/On the

On the question of the impact of immigration upon housing needs and the demand for timber, the Committee had the opportunity of consultation with a representative of the Australian Government who was also concerned with the future Australian demand for timber from Latin America connected with Australia's own immigration programme.

8. The Committee continued its study of the criteria to be applied in determining the feasibility of economic development projects involving immigration. Note was taken by members of the Committee of the fact that experience had shown that settlement projects had failed in Latin American and other parts of the world through having been based on incomplete surveys of their economic and social prospects. Drafts of a schedule of test questions to be used in assessing the feasibility of projects were circulated and discussed and the Committee will consider at its Third Session the issue of a schedule which could be made use of by the Committee, and be provided to Governments on request and to interest technical assistance missions.

9. The Committee advanced its study of material collected by members on the possibilities in different Latin American countries for the development of economic plans and projects involving immigration which might be pursued if requests from Governments were received. The I.L.O. representative reported that requests for technical assistance under the I.L.O. special manpower programme, including assistance for migration, which was being operated from the I.L.O. Latin American Manpower Field Office in Sao Paulo, had recently been received from seven Latin American countries.

/10. Among matters

10. Among matters discussed at the Session was a suggestion that countries desirous of encouraging immigration might wish to further organise and co-ordinate the provision of information as to the best location of projects. Advice and information might usefully be made available in some section of a Government Department - or a small inter-departmental unit be set up if necessary - in order to provide data to countries of emigration and organisations interested in settlement projects. Such a procedure might both assist the countries of immigration in exercising their interest in the planning of their economies from the standpoint of location of projects, and also facilitate the work of missions sent by countries of emigration and organisations interested in settlement. It was thought it would be useful to make enquiries as to the extent of the existence of such machinery at present in Latin American countries and as to whether it would be desirable for the Committee to make a recommendation on this matter. The item was placed on the agenda of the Third Session of the Committee.

11. As regards its future programme of work and meetings, the Committee decided to hold its Third Session in Santiago beginning 8th January, 1951. [1/] The question of the relation of the work of the Committee under item (b) of its terms of reference to the technical assistance machinery of the U.N. and the Specialised Agencies was still under discussion with the Headquarters of the U.N. and the Specialised Agencies concerned.

1/ Later, postponed to 5th February.